



THE METEOR

Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara
Harris-Lass House Museum

Fall Edition – October 1, 2018



Early Bird Bargain Tickets Now on Sale for December 7-8 Historic Home Tour

By Mary Hanel

The always-delightful Holiday Historic Home Tour, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, is scheduled for Friday, December 7th and Saturday, December 8th. Four private homes plus two of the oldest historic buildings in Santa Clara -- the Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe and the late 1850s-era Larder House will be on this year's tour.

Queen Anne Victorian, Craftsman Bungalow and other historical architectural styles will be featured. One of the private homes, the circa 1903 'Dugdell-Pinkham House,' is a bungalow with pronounced craftsman features but also some colonial revival detailing.

The nonprofit Santa Clara Women's League will serve complimentary refreshments and hold an opportunity drawing at the Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe, 3260 The Alameda, during the tour as a fundraiser for their organization which provides support to the Health and Wellness Program at the Santa Clara Senior Center.



Early Bird Tickets for the annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour will go on sale October 1st with a discounted price of \$20 if purchased by October 31 (a real bargain!). Beginning November 1, ticket prices will be \$30 general admission, \$25 Seniors (60+) or Children and Youth (6-21). No youth under the age of 6 will be admitted. If still available the days of the tour, all tickets will be \$35 at the Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe.

Order tickets for the annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour at the website: sc-hometour.com, or mail ticket requests to: Historic Home Tour 2018, c/o Harris-Lass House Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311. (Mail order flyers will also be distributed to the city libraries and other locations in October.) Mail-In purchases must be postmarked by Friday, November 30 to allow for return mail.



Tickets may also be purchased at City Lights Espresso, 1171 Homestead Road, Santa Clara (at Jackson Street across from the Post Office) and at Antiques Colony, 1881 West San Carlos Street, San Jose.

The Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara and the Old Quad Residents' Association co-sponsor the Tour. Proceeds benefit the Harris-Lass Museum, historic preservation projects in the City, and nonprofit groups in Santa Clara.

For more information, view the Home Tour website at: www.sc-hometour.com or call the Harris-Lass Museum message line at 1-408-249-7905.

Jeannie Mahan Receives Community Hero Award

Congratulations to Regina “Jeannie” Mahan on receiving a 2018 Community Heroes Service Award from Kansen Chu, California Assembly member for the 25th District.

Jeannie, a member of the Board of Directors of the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara, was honored in July at a reception at the India Community Center in Milpitas.

She was recognized for her community service, along with a group of citizens from five local cities, including Santa Clara. One of the other honorees was her sister Patricia Mahan, a former Mission City Mayor and current City Council member.

Jeannie is respected for her leadership roles in the Santa Clara University’s Catala Club, Santa Clara Woman’s Club, the HPSSC Historic Home Tour, and the City’s Historical Landmarks Commission.



MAY WE SERVE YOU? -- The gracious volunteers who served box lunches at the Antiques Appraisal Show in July were (from left to right) Sue Harper, Susan Kozdon, Donna Marencia (event coordinator); and Judy Tucker.

(photo by Joan Cabral)



Did You Live in Santa Clara Before the 1970s?

by Mary Hanel

The non-profit community organization Reclaiming Our Downtown is working with Santa Clara University to find people who lived here before the 1970s.

Clinton Blount, an anthropology and oral history consultant for SCU, is searching for residents who remember Franklin Street and life in Downtown Santa Clara before the era of urban renewal in the 1960s.

If you are willing to participate in this oral history project, please contact Mr. Blount at clintonblount@gmail.com or by phone: 1-831-818-8287.

Reclaiming Our Downtown was started as a Facebook page in 2016 by Rod Dunham, a 3rd generation Santa Claran, to share historic photographs and memories of Santa Clara when it still had its old downtown.

He picked up many followers and now the group has become a non-profit with a vision for what the downtown can become.

The group meets for coffee chats at City Lights Espresso to share information about events happening in and affecting the Old Quad area. They also have plans to bring back the former “Parade of Champions.”

To find out more information, watch for the launch of the group’s new website in early October www.reclaimingourdowntown.org

Before Buses and Automobiles, Trolley Street Cars Ran Up and Down the Tracks on Franklin Street

by Bob Byrd

The “clang, clang, clang of the trolley and the ding, ding, ding of the bell” faded from Santa Clara’s history 80 years ago on April 10, 1938 when the last street car was retired from service.

On April 15, the “Santa Clara News” summed up the end of the oldest electric street car line west of the Rocky Mountains – “Street Cars End 70 Years of Service in Santa Clara”.

The day-long celebration included free rides from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight that spring evening. Many of the old timers who were selected for the last ride on the rumbling cars recalled when they rode the first horse drawn trolleys from San Jose to Santa Clara in 1868.



Thousands of citizens lined streets in both cities for a final glimpse as the last car headed down Franklin Street and The Alameda to the San Jose rail station. Every street corner was jammed with groups of people who witnessed riders hanging out windows and many passengers dressed in “costumes of olden days.”

The youngest passenger on board the official car was Ronald Sallows, the four-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivanor Sallows of Santa Clara. (Remember when local residents bought their Christmas trees at Allie Sallows’ Red & White Grocery Store on Franklin Street?)

Another special guest in the official car was William Mendia, who retired that day with 46 years of service as a motorman. With the street cars a passing memory, the very next Monday new buses started on schedule at 6 a.m. And why buses? They were said to give better service, were less noisy and more comfortable to ride, and were safer for loading and unloading at the curb.

And for the rest of the story ... the narrow-gauge rail tracks were removed and paved over by WPA workers hired from President Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration. The overhead electric wires and poles were dismantled and salvaged by City crews. And the chug, chug, chug from trolley motors and the bump, bump, bump from the brakes were never heard again.

Museum House Tour October 13

The Harris-Lass Museum will be open on Saturday, October 13, for ONE public house tour led by docents. Visitors planning to attend must phone the museum office at 1 (408) 249-7905 to make a reservation and indicate how many guests will be coming.

The event will begin at 1 pm in the barn with the film “The Last Harvest,” a 30-minute history of the 1865 farm site. The one-hour tour will start at about 1:30 pm and end with a visit to the Tank House Gift Shop.

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 and Barbara Mordy.

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Meteor Staff members

Bob Byrd, editor;
 Susan Kozdon, layout editor;
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 and contributors.



The Harris-Lass Museum is located at 1889 Market Street in Santa Clara.

The mailing address is HPSSC, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055

For other information visit our web site at www.harrisslass.org or call 1 (408) 249-7905



**Leo Martinez,
 Santa Clara
 Community
 Volunteer, Named
 to Preservation
 Society Board of
 Directors**

(photo by Sue Kozdon)

Leo Martinez, a longtime local community service volunteer, has returned to the Board of Directors of the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara.

“Although Leo resigned from the board a number of years ago, he has always remained an active volunteer at the Harris-Lass Museum,” said Bob Byrd, HPSSC president. “We are thrilled to welcome him back as our 12th board member and appreciate his dedication to local history.”

Leo is a past president of the HPSSC and previously served as vice-president and treasurer. He is a former member of the City’s Historical Landmarks Commission and was involved for many years with the Kiwanis Club and Santa Clara High School Boosters Club.

A graduate of Fremont Elementary School and Santa Clara High School’s Class of 1961, Leo attended DeAnza College prior to working 17 years for the Hewlett-Packard Co. plating PC boards. He later formed his own business known as Electropolishing Shop Inc., which polishes stainless steel parts for various tech industries.

In addition to enjoying his family and grandchildren’s school and athletic events, Leo’s special interests include underwater photography and 1950s classic cars.

